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**Town of Middlebury  
Energy Committee Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, October 16, 2019**

Present: Richard Hopkins: Liv Herdman, Lindsey Fuentes-George, Lisa Bernadin, Diane Munroe, Steve Maier, Howard Widelitz

Absent: Ross Conrad, Van Barth

Guest(s): Andrew L'Roe from the Addison County Regional Planning commission participated for the beginning of the meeting.

Howard started the meeting at 8:48 AM with a review of the agenda and no changes were requested.

Reviewed the meeting minutes from last month. Howard requested some edits for clarification. Richard made a motion to approve the minutes. All were in favor of approving the minutes as amended with the exception of Steve and Howard who abstained.

**Button Up Day Update**

Button Up Day event, Step it up to Button up, will be November 20 at 6:30 pm at the Unitarian Church, Unity Hall. We have prizes and a spinning wheel from the regional planning commission! Dave Keefe from Efficiency Vermont will facilitate the workshop. Someone from Efficiency Vermont, probably Becca White, will place an ad in the Addy Indy. Diane will submit an article to the Addy Indy to be published prior to the event. Other publicity will include a post to Front Porch Forum. Howard volunteered to do this as well as to find out about the rules regarding the use of Sandwich boards. Liv, Lisa, Lindsey and Howard will work on the bank display that is reserved for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> weeks of November, dates to be confirmed by Lindsey via e-mail.

Howard and Diane are going to contact additional guest speakers/experts for the workshop. The list of folks to invite includes a Vermont Gas representative, Efficiency Vermont certified contractors in Addison County and neighbor works. Other possible people include CVOEO (Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity), and a number of homeowners with efficiency projects.

Richard commented that financing options for these projects should be as easy as it is for a phone.

**Renewable Energy Policy/Purchasing Policy**

The original policy was sent out a year ago and we need to review it annually. The discussion ranged widely and the main points of the discussion were:

Are adjustments needed to the existing policy that are clunky or hard to implement?

Do we want to set a goal for the town? If we do want to set a goal, what should it be? Setting a short time frame such as the 8-year timeframe included in Richard's proposed update allows us to be more aggressive.

If we set a goal, is it possible that advancements in technology will help achieve that goal?

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Data analysis of our current carbon emissions is an important part of this. We could possibly start with the police department in our data analysis. In addition, an email from Chris Robbins identified a significant assessment from a consultant that the heat pumps at the library would be sufficient to heat the library with a limited need from a fossil fuel supplement.

A policy/ guidance document may work better if we bring a plan or list of action items to the Selectboard.

The purpose of a policy is to encourage the procedure or process in making decisions. Should it be considered a policy or a guideline?

It was recommended that we push off the policy review until December, when we can have a more coherent message/plan to present to the Selectboard. Lindsey volunteered to inform the town manager that we would like to be placed on a later agenda for the Selectboard, likely in December, although it will have to work with their schedule.

If we develop a database of possible projects or procurement options what is the amount of work required to maintain this database. There was some discussion if the GRITS software could be used to track the projects and the reduction of fossil fuel consumption that results.

Given the length of discussion on the previous topics, there was no time available to cover the remaining items on the agenda and were deferred to the November meeting.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Richard and seconded by Diane.

All present were in favor of adjourning.